

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00929 080659Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FDRE-00 /073 W

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P 080512Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9446

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, PINT, SREF, NZ, V

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A) WELLINGTON 0862; B) WELLINGTON 0865

1. MFA DEPUTY SECRETARY NORRISH HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT NEW ZEALAND'S TWO BRISTOL FREIGHTERS HAVE BEEN FERRYING SUPPLIES, BUT NO REFUGEES, FROM SAIGON TO PHU QUOC ISLAND. THE ONLY PASSENGERS ON THESE FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN FROM THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY IN SAIGON AND FROM THE N.Z. MEDICAL MISSION.

TWENTY-FIVE TONS OF MILK POWDER HAVE BEEN FLOWN FROM SINGAPORE TO PHU QUOC TO HELP SUPPLY THE REFUGEES. A FURTHER 25 TONS OF DRIED MILK HAS BEEN GIVEN TO UNICEF FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH HANOI IN AREAS OF SOUTH VIETNAM THAT ARE CONTROLLED BY NORTH VIETNAM AND THE VIET CONG.

2. A ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE (RNZAF) C-130 WITH AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE ABOARD IS EN ROUTE TO SINGAPORE AND SAIGON TO LOOK INTO THE VEXING (TO GNZ) PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE ORPHANS. THE OFFICIAL WILL LOOK INTO WHAT APPEARS FEASIBLE AND ADVISE THE GNZ ON A COURSE TO FOLLOW. NORRISH INTIMATED THAT THE OFFICIAL WILL RECOMMEND AGAINST BRINGING ORPHANS TO NEW ZEALAND.

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3. COMMENT: NEW ZEALAND IS UNDER INTERNAL PRESSURE TO
BRING SOME ORPHANS HERE AND THE C-130 FLIGHT IS DESIGNED
PRIMARILY TO PROPITIATE THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN MANY NEW NEW
ZEALANDERS FEEL FOR THE ORPHANS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER,
THE GNZ IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT MIGHT OFFEND THE
NORTH VIETNAMESE/VIET CONG WHO ARE LIKELY, IN THE GNZ'S
VIEW, TO BE RULING SOON IN SAIGON. THUS, NO MORE THAN A
TOKEN NUMBER OF ORPHANS, IF ANY, WILL BE BROUGHT TO NEW
ZEALAND. END COMMENT.
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